

Remarks

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action October 6, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendment, and the remarks which follow. No new matter is added with the amendments, which are fully supported by the specification.

Claims 1-3 and 25-28 have been canceled. Claims 12-24 were previously withdrawn from consideration in response to the Examiner's restriction requirement. Claims 12-24 are now canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to place the application in condition for allowance. Consequently, Claims 4-11 remain pending in this application.

Applicant wishes to express appreciation to the Examiner for the indication that claims 4-11 have been allowed.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (claims 1-11) in response to the restriction requirement. Accordingly, claims 12-28 were withdrawn from consideration.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant wishes to express appreciation to the Examiner for the acknowledgment and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 12, 2005.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, and 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0054523 to Mizugaki et al. (Mizugaki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,195,238 to Sato (Sato) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,141,287 to Mattausch (Mattausch).

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizugaki in view of Sato and in view Mattausch and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,223 to Kozaru et al. (Kozaru).

In view of the amendments contained herein canceling claims 1-3 and claims 12-28, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1-3 and 25-28 are now moot and the application is in condition for allowance.


CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicants respectfully request that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for applicants at 202-912-2160 for any reason related to the advancement of this case.

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